

# Mindful Exploration

## Virtues of Justice — Teamwork



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### TOPIC

Virtues of Justice —  
Teamwork  
(Mindful Explorations)

### GRADE LEVEL

9th-12th grade

### DURATION

40 minutes (10 min per lesson)

### SUBJECT AREA

Character Development, ELA,  
Homerooms, Advisory

### DESCRIPTION OF THE LESSON

Mindful Explorations serve as short daily activities to develop introspection and social emotional learning. Students are asked to reflect on the challenges they may face, the goals they have for themselves and the relationships they aspire to have in their lives. Each lesson contains an opening focus question, three 10-minute activities with clips of testimony, and a closing reflection question.

In this activity, students will recognize that by working with others for the purpose of a common good, one is not only demonstrating the character strength of teamwork, but also improving or developing other personal skills such as cooperation, patience, empathy, respect, tolerance, communication, and confidence, among others. Lastly, students will learn that by practicing this strength, they could join others in their effort to create a more just world.

By the end of this activity, students will identify an area of their lives where they have practiced the skill of teamwork. They will reflect on ways in which they may strengthen this skill or extend it to other areas of need. Finally, they will consider the possible personal and community benefits of working as a team for a common goal.

The activity contains testimony from Niddal El-Jabri, Jeppe Duvaa and Mette Bentow, who are part of the contemporary antisemitism collection.

### STANDARDS ADDRESSED

CCSS. ELA-Literacy. CCRA. W10.

Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

### MATERIALS

*Student Handout Mindful Exploration – Teamwork*

Clips of testimony: Niddal El-Jabri (1:08 min), Jeppe Duvaa (1:52 min), and Mette Bentow (1:46 min)

### LEARNING AIMS

Students will:

- Identify teamwork as a key element of justice
- Analyze audiovisual testimonies and specific individual's experiences to understand the virtue of teamwork
- Reflect on possible ways to foster the socio-emotional benefits of teamwork

### Consider

**1. ME Purpose:** Explain to students that justice is a virtue largely defined by other specific values such as: leadership, fairness and teamwork. Inform students that the following three mindful explorations will focus on the development of the positive trait of teamwork both for their personal benefit and that of their communities, and as a way to achieve justice in the world.

**2. Mindful Exploration Handout:** Pass out the *Student Handout Mindful Exploration – Teamwork*. Read the brief introduction and focus question together. Explain that over the course of three lessons the class will listen to clips of testimony intended to help them reflect on this topic.

### Collect

**3. Clips of Testimony:** Each day, play one of the three clips of testimony twice. Begin by providing a brief introduction of each individual and the content of the clip. (See clip information and biographies below.)

**4. First Viewing:** Have students listen to the clip of testimony and clarify any questions they may have. Then, have students read and respond to the first connected question on the *Student Handout Mindful Exploration – Teamwork*.

**5. Second Viewing:** After this viewing, have students respond to the second connected question on the *Student Handout Mindful Exploration – Teamwork*. Then, have students share their responses.

**6. Repeat:** Follow the same format for each clip of testimony.

*The testimonies in this activity from Niddal El-Jabri, Jeppe Duvaa and Mette Bentow were taken two months after their community in Denmark became the target of an antisemitic terrorist attack. These individuals talk about the joint efforts of many Danish people coming together after the attack, to work as a team in support of the Jewish community. Their testimonies describe how one act of evil was transformed into an act of solidarity and hope that benefited many.*

#### Day 1

##### Clip 1: Niddal El-Jabri

*In this clip, Niddal, an interviewee who has experienced contemporary antisemitism, discusses his work on behalf of the Jewish community in Copenhagen, Denmark after a terrorist attack was perpetrated against Jews on February 2015.*

**Niddal El-Jabri**, the son of Palestinian immigrants, was born in Denmark in 1985. While his family is Muslim, Niddal was raised in a secular family, and thinks of himself as Danish. After the terrorist attacks on February 14-15, 2015, in his city, a friend of Niddal's wrote to him and suggested that Niddal organize a peace ring in Copenhagen. Niddal's interview was recorded at the Great Synagogue in Copenhagen on May 7, 2015.

### Collect

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#### Day 2

##### Clip 2: Jeppe Duva

*In this clip, Jeppe, an interviewee who has experienced contemporary antisemitism, discusses his feelings regarding the way Danish people came together as a team to support the Jewish community after the terrorist attack.*

**Jeppe Duva** is a journalist. He was born in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1960; his father and his uncles were involved in the resistance movement during the Nazi occupation of Denmark. While the official church of Denmark is Protestant, Jeppe was raised in a Roman-Catholic family. Jeppe was interviewed at the Great Synagogue in Copenhagen on May 7, 2015.

#### Day 3

##### Clip 3: Mette Bentow

*In this clip, Mette, an interviewee who has experienced contemporary antisemitism, reflects on the bridges being built between communities in Copenhagen since Dan Uzan's murder.*

**Mette Bentow** was born on February 20, 1984, in Thisted, Denmark, to a Jewish mother and a non-Jewish father. While Mette did not grow up in a religious family, she did face antisemitism as a child. She and her husband, Klaus, are raising their children as Modern Orthodox Jews. On February 14, 2015, Mette's daughter Hannah, was celebrating her Bat Mitzvah at the Great Synagogue in Copenhagen, Denmark. Dan Uzan, a volunteer security guard and member of the Danish Jewish community, was shot and killed. Mette's interview was recorded at the Great Synagogue in Copenhagen on May 7, 2015.

### Construct

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**7. Final Reflection (Day 4):** After viewing and answering questions related to the third clip, direct student to the Final Reflection section of the *Student Handout Mindful Exploration – Teamwork*. Have them assess their own character and views regarding teamwork while considering the experiences and testimonies they have listened to.

Inform students that teamwork is an essential character trait that when effectively practiced, it helps individuals improve or develop other skills such as cooperation, patience, empathy, respect, tolerance, communication and confidence among others.

Motivate students to learn more about teamwork and justice, as well as, to brainstorm ways on which they can build or strengthen these character virtues.

Encourage students to work quietly and respond on their paper.

# Mindful Exploration

## Virtues of Justice — Teamwork

### Communicate

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**8. Discuss:** To close this Mindful Exploration, ask volunteers to share the way in which testimony helped them understand the impact of citizenship in building and bringing about justice for self, community or world.

**Additional Note to Teacher:**

If assigning the Mindful Exploration series to students, we recommend asking students to keep a Mindful Explorations reflection journal. Using a reflection journal or folder to maintain their responses will provide them a compilation of their thoughts, enabling them to see how their thinking develops.

